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OF INTEREST SCOPE

International Exposition to Be Held at Seattle.

DEVOTED TO THE PACIFIC

Great Britain's Revenue From the Income Tax.

RUSSIA'S PARTY OF VIOLENCE

Interesting Discoveries in Palestine—Operation of Municipal Pawnshops in Europe.

BY WILLIAM E. CURTIS.

Written for The Star and The Chicago Record-Herald.

The next international exposition will be held at Seattle, but its scope will be limited to the Pacific coast, Alaska, Central and South America, the Philippines, the Hawaiian Islands, China, Korea and Japan. Europe nor Africa will have no place reserved for them, although, of course, if exhibitors from those parts of the world insist upon coming they will receive a cordial welcome and will be given floor space to display their wares. A formal invitation will be sent to all the nations bordering on the Pacific, and efforts will be made to have them thoroughly represented, even Latin-American neighbors as well as our oriental friends. It is considered wise to limit the representation because it is easier to do well with too little than too much. Missionaries will be sent to represent the cause among the nations named, and next winter a bill will be introduced into Congress making an appropriation for a proper government exhibit. It is expected that the United States will do as well at Seattle as it did at Portland, and about the same amount of money. No subsidy or general appropriation for the promotion of the enterprise will be asked. Seattle feels competent to stand on her own bottom and furnish capital enough to carry out the scheme.

The title of the exposition will have four sections. It will be called the Seattle-Yukon-Alaska-Pacific exposition, with emphasis upon Alaska, for a full representation of that territory and the British interests in the Klondike. The Yukon-Alaska river will be made. Seattle is the principal port of Alaska; most of the business of that territory either originates or terminates within its limits, and since the destruction of San Francisco the transactions have doubled in volume and importance. Therefore there is a particular reason that the Seattle people to exploit the modern Klondike.

The exposition will be held in the year 1909, which gives two years and a half for preparation. The plans are now being completed, the organization has been perfected and serious work will begin at once.

British Income Tax.

Those who believe in an income tax will find a great deal of consolation and encouragement in the recent report of the inland revenue commissioners of the British government who have charge of that branch of the finances. The latest returns show receipts of \$20,996,401, or in round numbers, \$15,000,000 of our money, 50 per cent of which came from the incomes of commercial and manufacturing concerns, professions and employments, 24 per cent from the ownership of lands and houses, 8.2 per cent from salaries of government and public company officials, and 6.7 per cent from "profits of British, colonial and foreign securities."

The total wealth of the British nation, as shown by the income tax returns for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1905, is \$2,120,000,000, an increase from \$2,040,000,000 featured for the previous year.

It is agreed by all concerned that the income tax although a shilling to the pound, or 25 cents on every \$5 income, is the fairest division of taxation, the least felt and most easily collected of any revenue except that from saloon licenses.

The Russian Fighting Group.

The nerve and stolidity of the Russian revolutionists were never surpassed by any human beings. They do not seem to have the slightest fear of death and are utterly indifferent to danger. Very few of the bomb-throwers have escaped alive. Nearly all of them have died with their victims. In only one or two cases have the men or women who have attempted assassinations escaped the supreme penalty, and in no case has the culprit shown anything but a bold and defiant disposition even to the gallows. Several women have been executed within the last few months, and one, Leontieff, niece of Gen. Treppoff, who assassinated a Frenchman in the dining room of a hotel at Interlaken by a mistake for Minister Durnovo, has been sent to prison for life, there being no capital punishment in Switzerland. Some of them were mere girls, but in every case their courage and self-possession was heroic. No member of the "fighting group," as they call it, of the social revolutionists in Russia has ever broken down or even faltered when in the presence of death.

Most of the active terrorists are Jews, a majority of them Polish Jews, and they are usually students from the humbler classes of the population. When a desperate deed is to be committed it is always assigned to a Jew, although the deed is usually made by lot in the group to which the duty has been entrusted. The circumstance is due to the fact that four-fifths of the members of those organizations belong to that race, and also to the fact that they can be depended upon for nerve, courage and shrewdness more than any other inhabitants of Russia. You noticed from the newspaper dispatches that the recent robbery of the government treasure-wagon of \$180,000 in the rear of the Kazan Cathedral, in the business center, in the city of St. Petersburg, was committed by a group of Jews. It was the most sensational proceeding that has occurred in Russia, except the seizure of a battleship in the Black sea by mutineers under the leadership of a Jew named Schmidt.

There are several factions of the social revolutionary party, the most important of which is the Jewish band, having its headquarters at Moscow, where the massacre was committed last June. The next most effective faction is called the Maximalists, or the followers of Maxim, a Polish Jew, who led the revolution in the Baltic states last spring and has been making a lecture tour in the United States during the recent summer. From these two organizations the government has suffered more than from any other.

Many of the members of the social revolutionary party are fanatics, but the rank and file is composed of ignorant people, whose sufferings under oppression have made them the enemies of the government.

Temple Overthrown by Samson.

Mr. Stewart Macallister, who has been excavating in southern Palestine under the direction of the Palestine exploration fund, is confident that he has discovered the ruins of the temple which Samson overthrew. In the vicinity of the modern city of Gezer, which is the Gaza of the Bible, he has been making extensive excavations and has found strata of cities, one of them built on the ruins of another. In the course of a thousand years or so the crumbling walls and masses of rubbish have not only buried the ruins of buildings, but have brought the surface of the earth up to a level upon which the foundations of more modern cities have since been laid. Under the ruins of an old city on the outskirts of Gezer Macallister found ruins of various ages extending from 200 to 3,000 B. C., and among them the fragments of a temple, stone columns, upon which it formerly rested. This temple had five or six gates, which had been supported by columns erected about 1400 B. C., and from various indications Mr. Macallister believes that it is the temple of Dagon described in Judges xvi:23-30, where Samson committed suicide. He has found many other interesting ob-

jects, including "the great high place," believed to be the earliest site of Semitic worship in Palestine. Nearby are the remains of an ancient reservoir with a capacity of about 4,000,000 gallons of water. In the center of it was found buried a bronze statue of a man, which, in good preservation. Mr. Macallister claims also to have identified the castle of Simon Macabbeus, which has a remarkable series of baths upon the roof. A large burial cave containing many skeletons was also exposed.

Official Standard of Measures.

The official standard of measures of the British nation is marked by a brass plate imbedded in the floor of Guildhall by the late Sir George Airy, royal astronomer, 200 years ago. The inscription reads as follows: Standards of Length (at Fabriques of Limit Placed in This Hall by the Corporation of the City of London). The Standard Lengths of 1 foot and 60 feet. Are laid down on the Floor in Front of this Tablet. Standing on the Floor. One foot. Two feet. Imperial yard.

Municipal Pawnshops.

In Europe and in several of the Spanish-American countries it is customary for the municipal government to conduct pawnshops, which are called "Montes de Piedad" (mountains of piety)—I don't know why. The municipality of Paris conducts twenty-two pawnshops, under the supervision of a committee of the common council, and the loans amount annually to about \$10,000,000. This custom has prevailed since 1777, and notwithstanding the mutations of politics, the uprisings and the down-fallings of dynasties and powers, it has been administered to fulfill a philanthropic purpose by enabling persons of limited means, overtaken by misfortune, to secure financial relief to meet pressing necessities without sacrificing their self-respect or being robbed by extortionate usurers. The Paris pawnshops are official monopolies; no private pawnshop is allowed to do business openly, but there is a great deal of usury in chattel mortgages conducted privately, and a system of swindling has grown up within recent years by brokers who purchase pawn tickets from people who have not secured the relief that they expected from the loan obtained at the municipal office. The municipal pawnshops never loan more than one-third of the real value of an article, and by placing his pawn ticket with one of these secret brokers the borrower can obtain a second mortgage, as you might say, upon the article, for about one-third more. Various measures have been devised to counteract this evil, but they have not been effective.

There is no discredit attaching to a transaction at a municipal pawnshop in France. People in all classes of society take advantage of them, and rich citizens often offer their jewels, silverplate and other articles of value for a loan, at 10 per cent so as to have them taken care of during the summer. The vaults of the pawnshops are as secure as those attached to any of the banks, while the petty interest on a nominal loan is a mere trifle compared with the rental of a box or the storage charges at a regular safe deposit company. Thus rich people get their val-

ables taken care of by the government of France for practically nothing. In Belgium the system is very much like that of France, except that the pawnshops are under the management of special officials appointed by the mayor, who has the direct oversight of the business.

In Germany there are few municipal pawnshops, but there is a pawn office at Berlin in connection with the Royal Prussian Bank, which was established in 1834 by King Frederick William, and lends from one-half up to two-thirds of their estimated value upon jewels, precious stones, gold, silver, pictures, porcelain and other articles whose value is not likely to deteriorate. The Royal pawn office, however, does not accept furniture, books, wearing apparel or other articles of that kind.

All private pawnbrokers in Germany are under official surveillance and the rates are limited by law to two per cent a month, or 24 per cent a year. They are required to pay a heavy tax; their books are always open to the inspection of the police, and they are required to notify the nearest police station if any suspicious articles are offered.

TO MAKE ARMY ATTRACTIVE.

Gen. Wade Thinks Officers Should Be Asked for Suggestions.

In his annual report Maj. Gen. James F. Wade, commanding the Atlantic division, states that the Coast Artillery, as in former years, is still much in need of officers and enlisted men, but hopes that the changes in the stations of this arm, which will be made next spring, will stimulate re-enlistments.

In speaking of the condition and service of the troops, he says that their health, discipline and instruction remain fully up to the standard. As the men of the United States army are men of opinions and of intelligence, Gen. Wade states that it is very difficult to convince the average soldier that it is necessary for him to march day after day with full field kit merely in order that he may know beforehand how uncomfortable such marching is going to be when it does become necessary. He says it is difficult to get good men, and much more difficult to keep them, and thinks that steps should be taken to make the service more attractive. To this end Gen. Wade thinks that many views and suggestions would be received if the company, battalion and regimental commanders—the officers most closely connected with the men—were called upon to submit them to the department.

Mail Pouches Misdirected.

In spite of repeated warnings to the public and the handlers of mail to make the distinction between Washington the city and Washington the state, mistakes are constantly being discovered by the postal authorities. Strange as it may seem, the errors have been unusually frequent recently in the handling of sacks and pouches after the mail has been assorted and labeled for delivery. James E. White, general superintendent of the railway mail service, has just issued an order requiring that all bags and pouches for the state of Washington be labeled in large, black letters, "Washington state."

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NEWS ITEMS GATHERED

ON THE RIVER FRONT

While wild ducks have been very scarce on the river this fall, and are seldom seen except in small and scattered flocks, wild geese are making their appearance in unusually large numbers down river. The officers of the steamer Harry Randall, which arrived here last Sunday evening from the landings on the lower Potomac, report having seen several large flocks of geese feeding on the river flats above Lower Cedar Point Sunday morning. One especially large flock was noticed off Pope's creek, Md., and according to reports, it contained fully 500 birds. The geese had not been disturbed by hunters, and seemed to be very tame, allowing the steamer to approach close to them before flying.

Arrived: Schooners J. D. Bell, cord wood from a river point; schooner Earl Biscoe, pine lumber from the lower Potomac; steam yacht Niagara IV, on a cruise; schooner A. F. Lewis, Dove, S. S. Smith and Blue Bell, oysters from the beds of the lower Potomac; schooner Donnelly, lumber and shingles from a North Carolina port to Alexandria dealers; longboat Oneota, cord wood from a river point; longboat Gilman Dove, wood, from Dogue creek for dealers.

Sailed: Tug Camilla, towing S. O. Co. barges 62 and 77, light, for Baltimore, to load back to this city; barge George H. Faunce, light, for the Potomac oyster beds, to load for this city; sloop Gladis, light, for a river point to load; tug J. T. Select, man, towing three light scows for Four Mile Run; schooner J. C. Cunningham, light, for a point on the lower river to load back to this city; barge Neff, laden with paving block, for Richmond, Va., in tow of a tug.

Memoranda: Schooner Sideria, Curley is lying at Alexandria loading bottles for Norfolk; schooner John McGinnis is loading hard coal at Norfolk for this city; schooner Edith Verrill is loading cord

wood at a river point for dealers; schooner Eugie is reported in the river, bound to this city with a cargo of pine lumber from Norfolk; schooner Farmers' Friend is loading at a river point for this city.

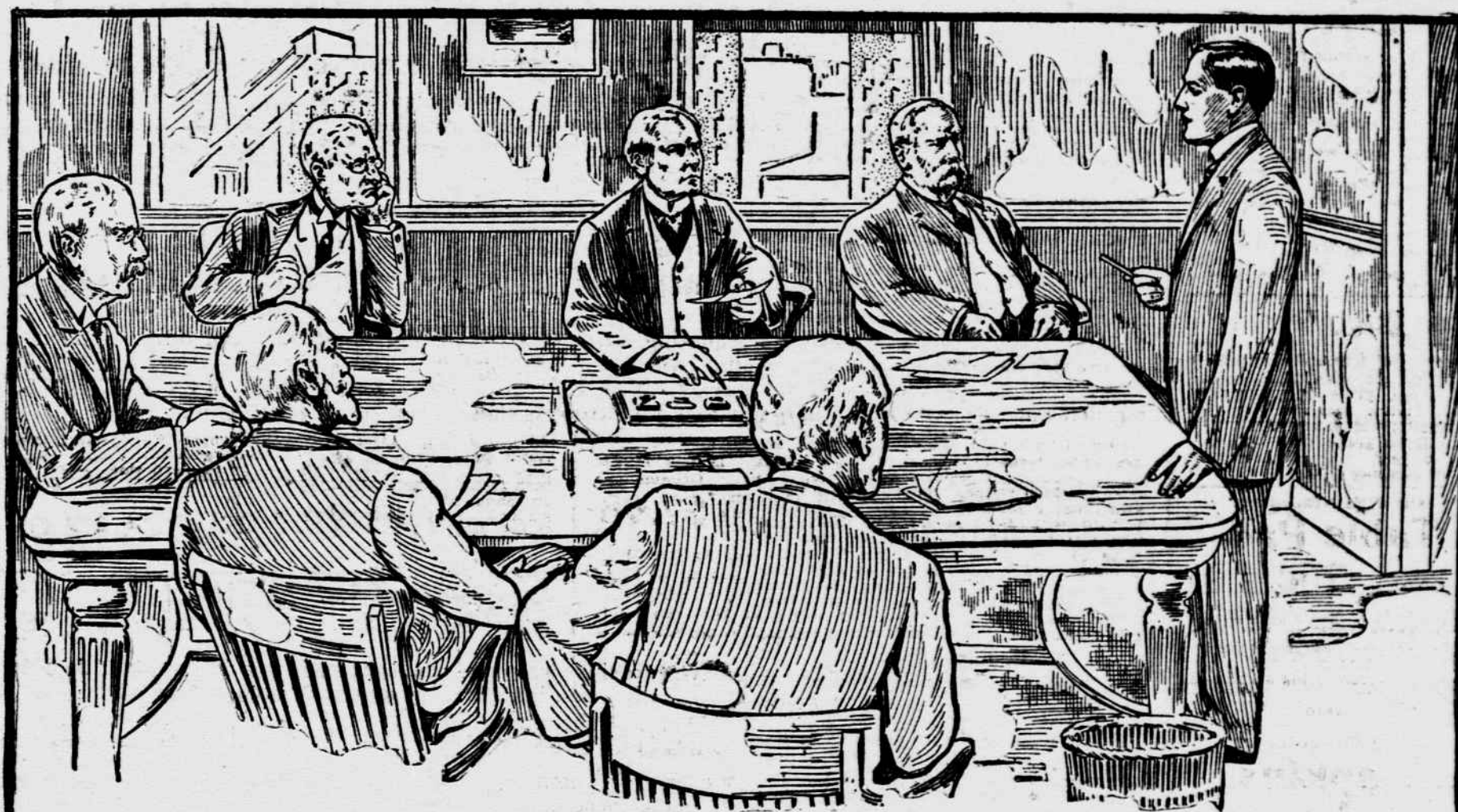
The statue of Gen. McClellan, which was brought to this city from Baltimore aboard the barge Lucretia, has been unloaded at the navy yard, the big derrick on the sea wall there being used to hoist the heavy bronze figure from the vessel. The Lucretia was taken to Georgetown yesterday to unload a cargo of hard coal consigned to dealers there.

The power launch Mary C. Sabin, which was brought to this city from the lower river aboard the steamer Harry Randall, was yesterday turned over to her owners, and put overboard at the 8th street wharf to return to her berthing place here. The launch had been used for hunting and fishing purposes for several weeks in the vicinity of Colton's wharf.

The steamer Rappahannock, belonging to the Virginia state fisheries force, which arrived at Alexandria last Saturday afternoon for supplies and for minor repair work, completed the repairs yesterday and sailed for the lower river to resume patrolling the oyster grounds to prevent the illegal taking of oysters in Virginia.

Arranging for the Session.

The gloom that has hung around the hush belt since Congress adjourned on the 30th of last June is slowly breaking away. By the time Speaker Cannon picks up his gavel and prepares to make a noise like a presiding officer all will be sunshine once more. Already landlords and landladies in the belt are receiving letters from congressmen, secretaries, assistant secretaries, and camp followers, making reservations for table board during the session. By the middle of December the clatter of unbreakable china will once more be heard in the land and all will be happiness in the belt. All the boarding house proprietors are extra sessionists, too, for reasons that are not hard to discover.



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